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### TRANSLATION CHALLENGES WITH THE LANGUAGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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### TRANSLATION CHALLENGES WITH THE LANGUAGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### ANNOTATION

The article deals with the the periods of origin of international organizations and their specific diplomatic language. It focuses on the emergence of some institutions after the Second World War and the importance of their functions and the expansion of the English language accross the world community. It is obvious that for more than seven decades a specialized variant of English has become widespread in the language of diplomants and statesmen. Currently, it is used to implement most development programs.

The article also highlights characteristics of problems of such language translations since it has a lot of specialized terms and jargons. Moreover, some expressions mean different things to different users, which prevent their correct understanding as well. The problem is that these terms remain unchanged in English, while in other languages they are translated differently, sometimes changing the meaning, arising double standards and, naturally, as a result, fail to achieve correct understanding.

**Key words:** international organizations, translation problemst, world community, terms, jargon, double standards, fail.

## Виктория Эолян

ЎзДЖТУ тадқиқотчиси

### ХАЛҚАРО ТАШКИЛОТЛАР ТИЛИ БИ- ЛАН БОҒЛИҚ ТАРЖИМА МУАММОЛАРИ

#### АННОТАЦИЯ

Мақола халқаро ташкилотларнинг ярати-  
лиш давлари ва уларнинг махсус дипломатик  
тили муаммоларига бағишланади. Иккинчи  
жаҳон урушидан сўнгги баъзи ташкилот-  
ларга асос солиниши, уларнинг вазифала-  
ри, шунингдек, инглиз тилининг бутун дунё  
ҳамжамияти бўйлаб кенг ёйилишига алоҳида  
урғу берилган. 70 йилдан ортиқ даврда инглиз  
тилининг махсус варианты элчи ва давлат  
раҳбарлари орасида оммавий фойдаланаёт-  
ганлиги ҳеч кимга сир эмас. Ҳозирда ривож-  
лантирувчи дастурларни амалга татбиқ қилиш  
тўғрисидаги саъй-ҳаракатлар ҳам шунинг на-  
тижасидир. Шунингдек, мақолада махсус тер-  
мин ва жаргонларнинг кўплиги сабабли тил  
билан боғлиқ таржимадаги муаммоларнинг  
ўзига хос белгиларига ҳам аҳамият берилган.  
Шу билан биргаликда, айрим сўз бирликлари-  
нинг ҳар хил тил фойдаланувчилари учун  
турлича маъно англатиши ҳам назарда тутил-  
ган тушунчанинг моҳиятини тўғри англамас-  
ликдир. Бундай терминларнинг инглиз тилида  
ўзгармай қолиши ва уларнинг барчаси турли  
тиллarga турлича таржима қилинишидадир.  
Баъзан маънонинг ўзгариши иккиланишлар-  
ни келтириб чиқаради, бу, албатта, мазмунни  
тўғри тушунишга тўсқинлик қилади.

**Калит сўзлар:** халқаро ташкилотлар, тар-  
жима муаммолари, дунё ҳамжамияти, тер-  
минлар, жаргон, иккиламчи стандартлар,  
муваффақиятсизликка учрамок.

## INTRODUCTION

After the World War II European countries faced the problem of quick recovering of their economy, living standard of their population but being terribly ruined they had no means for that and the world began to render assistance to them. Since 1950-1960, the newly set up international organizations of the world has made extensive use of English, which is even now a dominant language of developed countries, in documents of international organizations. The scope of its application varies from the global level to international assistance programs at the level of selected countries and regions. In order to better understand the causes of their emergence, it is worth to revise the main stages of origin and development of some international organizations.

Many prominent philosophers and politicians of the past dreamt of emergence of international organizations as totally new structures of the human society. For them, it was an ideal opportunity to organize social life rationally and fairly. Henri de Saint-Simon, a French philosopher and social scientist believed that establishment of the European parliament could help prevent wars in Europe; Jeremy Bentham, an English philosopher and jurist believed that an international court could become a universal means to resolve conflicts among countries; Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher, deemed it necessary to establish the world government as the “league of peace for free states” [1, p.286].

## MAIN PART

Establishment of international organizations led to “the development of a new concept for international communication”, which has become one of the backbone elements of international relations. Among the factors that contributed to establishment of international organizations, it is necessary to highlight the main goals for undertaking these activities – *striving for cooperation as a result of the achievements of the scientific and technological revolution; eliminate administrative and other obstacles to multilateral trade and economic exchanges; establish and observe constant and universal rules and norms in this area; create mechanisms for resolving controversial issues; maintain stable international legal, transport, infrastructure, postal, financial communications and other relations.*

These organizations, which arose in the field of multilateral trade and economic relations, aimed to ensure on an ongoing basis the impartial compliance with the agreed administrative rules of trade and economic interaction between states. The industrial revolution gave a powerful impetus to establishment of national and international non-governmental organizations.

There is a well-known historical fact that in October 1945 the *United Nations (UN)* was founded by the efforts of the coalition in the United States; its the Security Council was entrusted with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security along with the powers to enforce peace for certain states whose actions could put it at risk. Since the establishment of the UN, many international intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations were founded; they were engaged in development of cooperation and strengthening peace and security at the in-

ternational level.

Special mention should be made of the UN Charter. This is a unique document with its structural, lexical and grammatical features, laying the foundation for the formation of special English used by international organizations such as the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)*, the *Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO)*, the *European Economic Community (EEC)*, *Euratom*, the *Council of Europe*, the *Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (1973)*, subsequently transformed into the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)*, etc.

After the collapse of the world colonial system, the former colonies began to create their own international organizations to defend their interests. Among them there are the *Organization of African Unity (OAU)*, the *League of Arab States (LAS)*, and others. The former metropolises, in turn, tried to maintain their influence in the former colonies. For example, Great Britain initiated the return to the *British Commonwealth of Nations*. The main tools to achieve these goals are:

- market economy based on neo-liberal principles;
- control of world trade and finance through a system of international intergovernmental organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, WTO and other international financial institutions influenced by the “rich powers”;
- possession of major reserve currencies; and
- Western democratic values, which they seek to disseminate globally while retaining the exclusive right to evaluate compliance of other countries with them.

Application and dissemination of these economic and political instruments are carried out using a special style of the language of international organizations, full of socio-economic terms and jargons and incomprehensible to a wide audience. English became firmly established as the lingua franca of the western (northern) paradigm. For this reason alone, from 1945 to the present, most of the important publications on development have been published in English. They also used a specialized lexicon.

It should be noted that English was used not only for communication between development organizations and those who wanted to develop, but also in the design of concepts and plans to implement the development projects. For this reason, some development experts expressed concern that representatives of the least developed countries did not know well enough the specific dialect of English, used to compile those documents.

According to A. Ziai, a lecturer at the University of Kassel, Germany, with whom we completely agree, “Whereas one assumes development to denote a higher income for the rural population, a second links it with a better investment climate for multinational companies leading to employment and economic growth, a third with sustainable resource use, a fourth with better health care for mothers and infants, a fifth with economic and cultural imperialism, and a sixth with an opportunity to make a living in the aid business. Development means different things to different people”. [3, p. 132–133].

Because of this confusion, consultations were held with development specialists aimed at solving the problem of widespread use of “buzzwords and fuzzwords”

[8, p. 1] in the northern development discourse. This exchange of views resulted in a collection of articles edited by A. Cornwall, a professor at the University of Sussex, and D. Eade, a writer, “Deconstructing Development Discourse: Buzzwords and Fuzzwords”, where the most widely used special terms and concepts are analyzed in detail. D. Eade notes that “The intellectual contribution and cultures of aid-receiving countries, even those where English is the medium of higher education, are ... consigned at best to the textboxes of influential reports published by the World Bank and other UN specialised agencies”; while “The concepts and language of international development are defined by the cultural mindsets of donor agencies, be they bilateral or multilateral”.

Development studies are interdisciplinary and also deal with *special* lexicon. R. Chambers, Research Associate at the Institute of Development Studies, UK, points out the most common specialized English terms in development discourse over the past few decades [4, 2004]: *accountability*–подотчетность; *capabilities*–возможности; *civil society*–гражданское общество; *consumer*–потребитель; *decentralization*–децентрализация; *democracy*–демократия; *deprivation*–депривация; *diversity*–разнообразие; *empowerment*–расширение возможностей; *entitlement*–предоставление прав; *environment*–окружающая среда; *globalization*–глобализация; *human rights*–права человека; *livelihood*–источник дохода; *stakeholder*–заинтересованная сторона; *sustainability*–устойчивость; *transparency*–прозрачность; *vulnerability*–уязвимость; *capacity building*–наращивание потенциала; *results-based*–ориентация на достижение результатов.

The frequency of their use varies over time. Some retain their popularity longer, while others are more likely to go out of “fashion”. From time to time, “fresh” terms are added to them as a result of coordination and adoption of new important documents at the global level.

As noted above, such specialized expressions have different meanings for different stakeholders. In addition, it should be noted that in English these terms do not change, and they are often translated into other languages in different ways, and sometimes with complete or partial loss of meaning, which also does not contribute to their uniform and correct understanding.

Let us take as an example the most popular expression of international organizations, *sustainable development*. This phrase causes an ambiguous reaction in modern publications. This phrase, like many other English *buzzwords* is often abused, and there are complaints about its careless translation distorting its meaning. “Someone sloppily translated *sustainable development* as “устойчивое развитие” and confused everyone. It is sustainable in the sense that it does not rock the boat in which the whole humanity sits, but [many people] understand this development as continuous, without recessions, which was never meant”.

A. Cornwall states that “few of the words used in Anglo-dominated development discourse admit of translation into other languages: many come to be used in other languages as loan-words, their meanings ever more closely associated with the external agencies that make their use in proposals, policies, strategies, and re-

ports compulsory". [2, p. 4]. Indeed, in translation of special English terms there are quite a few examples of loan translation (calque) – “имплементация”, “драйвер”, “транспарентность”, “партиципаторный”, “инклюзивный”, “депривация”, “превенция”, “интеракция”, “куррикулумы”, “институции”, “интервенции/вмешательства” and many others.

Nevertheless, let us disagree, since only in very rare cases, as a result of borrowing, clear and convenient terms for use are formed. The above examples seem to us to be just a bad translation, when a translator is too lazy to think and look for the corresponding equivalents in the target language. But this is not difficult to do: *implementation*–имплементация, instead of *осуществление/реализация*; *driver*–драйвер, instead of *движущая сила*; *transparency*–транспарентность, instead of *прозрачность*; *participatory*–партиципаторный, instead of *основанный на всеобщем участии*; *inclusive*–инклюзивный, instead of *всесторонний*; *всеохватный*; *всеобъемлющий*; *всеобщий*; *deprivation*–депривация, instead of *лишение, утрата (прав, возможностей и т.д.)*; *ухудшение положения*; *prevention*–превенция, instead of *предотвращение*; *interaction*–интеракция, instead of *взаимодействие*; *curricula*–куррикулумы, instead of *учебные планы, программы*; *institutions*–институции, instead of *учреждения/организации*; *interventions*–интервенции, instead of *вмешательства*; *меры, мероприятия*.

In some cases, translators do not look beyond the first meaning and do not compare with the translation options generally accepted worldwide. And this is how absurdities like *целостность правоохранительных органов* appear (correct translation of *integrity of law enforcement agencies* is *честность и неподкупность правоохранительных органов*).

Thus, due to different perceptions of meanings of terms and errors in their translation, many special phrases, words and terms seem to be lost in translation.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that at present, development assistance programs exist in many developed countries and are often coordinated at the international level, for example, in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Within the framework of the UN, a number of specialized institutions have been formed, designed to promote the socio-economic development of developing countries: UNESCO in the field of education, science and culture; FAO in agriculture; ILO in labor market relations, and many others. These UN agencies together constitute the so-called UN “family,” or system, which is constantly extended.

At the UN General Assembly in 2000, eight international Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted, which were implemented under the leadership of the UN in 2000-2015. They have been replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The SDGs were adopted on September 25, 2015 for the period from 2015 to 2030. Publications on these goals are “classic” examples of *special English*.



It should also be noted that all international organizations have a number of common features, including

–Establishment based on an international treaty (convention, agreement, treaty, protocol, etc.).

–Cooperation and coordination of efforts in specific areas of activity: political (OSCE), military (NATO), scientific and technical (European Organization for Nuclear Research), economic (EU), monetary and financial (WB, IMF), social (ILO) and in many other areas. At the same time, a number of organizations are authorized to coordinate the activities of countries in almost all areas (UN, CIS).

–The presence of an appropriate organizational structure, headquarters, members represented by sovereign states and a system of main and subsidiary bodies. The administrative apparatus is headed by the executive secretary (Director General).

We believe that one of these features is also the use of special English –*Development speak*, to one degree or another, through which for more than 70 years various programs of assistance to developing countries have been developed and implemented. It seems to us that at present it is difficult to find an activity of an international organization where this complex and diverse language is not applied. In this regard, further study of its features and problems of its translation is a particularly relevant and important task in order to ensure full understanding of development activities by all stakeholders.

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